

Appl. No. 09/768,712
Amdt. Dated December 18, 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 31, 2003

Attorney Docket No. 81922.0005
Customer No.: 26021

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the thorough examination of the application that is reflected in the Office Action dated July 31, 2003. Applicants amend claims 1-6 to remove the reference numerals and place the claims in proper U.S. format. These amendments do not alter the scope of claims, but are instead made to avoid any inference that the claims should be construed as being limited by the embodiments to which the reference numerals refer.

Claims 1- 6 are pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

Art-based Rejections

The Official Action rejects claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kim (USPN 6,466,292).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for at least the following reasons. The Kim reference was filed in the U.S. on June 19, 2000. The present application claims priority from Japanese Patent Application Nos. 2000-019183 and 2000-019184 filed January 27, 2000, and 2000-020702 filed January 28, 2000.

Submitted herewith are certified English translations of the priority documents. Certified copies were previously submitted to the Office. Applicants respectfully submit that the priority documents satisfy the enablement and description requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. As such, Applicants have perfected their claim of priority under 35 U.S.C. 119 (a)-(d). Applicants' foreign priority filing date antedates the Kim reference, and therefore Applicants request that the rejection based on the Kim reference be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are requested.

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If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6700 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: December 18, 2003

By: Barry M. Shuman
Barry M. Shuman
Registration No. 50,220

500 South Grand Avenue, Suite 1900
Los Angeles, California 90071
Phone: 213-337-6700
Fax: 213-337-6701